



City of Albuquerque - Office of Civil Rights
1 Civic Plaza, Albuquerque, NM 87102
Phone- 505-768-4595, TTY 711
civilrights@cabq.gov

City of Albuquerque Human Rights Board Minutes

Date/Time: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 starting at 4:30 pm (MST)
Location: Zoom
Contact: Crystal Velarde, 505-768-4544

Board Members Present:

Virginia Necochea, Chair
Adrien Lawyer, Vice-Chair
Michael Jefferson
Samia Assed
Joan Yazze-Gallegos
Sradha Patel

Board Members Absent:

Douglas Alsup

City Staff & Guest Speakers Present:

Torri Jacobus, Managing Assistant City Attorney, Office of Civil Rights
Michelle Melendez, Director of Office of Equity & Inclusion
Jordan Vargas, ADA Coordinator
Crystal Velarde, Program Coordinator, Office of Civil Rights
Raquel Pinto, Law Clerk
Mariela Ruiz-Angel, Albuquerque Community Safety Division Coordinator
Winter Torres, Deputy City Attorney
Memar Ivy, Intern
Bella Niforatos, Intern
Christopher Ramirez, Chair of Transit Advisory Board

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chair Necochea at approximately 4:34 pm.

II. Moment of Silence for those who have lost their lives to COVID-19

III. Introductions

- a. Board members, City staff and guest speakers introduced themselves.

IV. Approval of Agenda

- a. Chair Necochea requested amendments for the Agenda.
 - i. Requested Approval of the Minutes, Presentation re: Albuquerque Community Safety Division and Public Comment follow Approval of the Agenda.
- b. Chair Necochea called for unanimous consent to approve the agenda as amended. There were no objections therefore the agenda as amended was approved.

V. Approval of Minutes from June 16, 2020

- a. Chair Necochea called for unanimous consent to approve the June 16, 2020 minutes as written. There was no objection therefore the minutes from June 16, 2020 were approved as written.

VI. Presentation re: Albuquerque Community Safety Division by Mariela Ruiz-Angel

- a. Ms. Ruiz-Angel shared the following information:
 - i. The Albuquerque Community Safety Division is the 1st of its kind and will be used as a 3rd option for 911 alongside APD and AFR. It will be utilized for responding to calls related to inebriation, homelessness, addiction, and mental health.
 - ii. Stats regarding costs from 8/1/18 to 7/31/19 when calling 911 or 242-COPS.
 - 1. AFR responded to 16,598 calls costing between \$56 & \$94 per call.
 - 2. APD responded to 1,374 calls costing around \$84 per call.
 - iii. The timeline for the Albuquerque Community Safety Division will be in phases.
 - 1. Phase 1: June to August 2020 will include the launch, setting up and completing community meetings, creating website, social media accounts, formulating a budget, forming working groups, and inventorying existing services.
 - 2. Phase 2: September to December 2020 will include reviewing and submitting amendments to the CASA on current policies or procedures, meet with interim legislative committee, create job descriptions, evaluate grant opportunities, review input received from the public and develop a test process.
 - 3. Phase 3: January to April 2021 will include hold community meeting on formal launch, advocate for any necessary changes to state law, have as a stand-alone department, and implement all processes.
 - iv. Input from the public will be collected through surveys and town halls. The Albuquerque Community Safety Division would also like partnerships with the DOJ, mental health providers, homeless partners, youth partners, City Boards and Commissions and healthcare partners.
 - v. The Albuquerque Community Safety Division goals currently are to deliver the right response to the right calls, improve access to the broad range of social services and to focus police resources where they are needed most.
 - vi. Funds will initially come from COAST and Homeless Outreach, but contracts will be reviewed and some positions to see which are more effective.
 - vii. Ms. Mariela Ruiz-Angel can be reached at 505-768-3036 or ACS@cabq.gov.

VII. Public Comment

- a. Members of the public shared concerns regarding homeless discrimination as well as statues and monuments that they felt needed to be removed.
- b. Mrs. Melendez shared Mayor Keller has created a committee that will review any suggested park or street renaming and statues that have been requested to be removed.

VIII. Presentation from CABQ Transit Board

- a. Christopher Ramirez, Chair of the Transit Advisory Board shared the following information:

- i. The Transit Advisory Board has drafted a resolution asking the Mayor, and City Council to stop using buses and Sun Van to transport APD officers to public protests for the following reasons.
 - 1. People who depend on public transportation for themselves or family may not see it as a safe way to travel after seeing officers in riot gear exit the buses.
 - 2. Bus drivers who do not feel uncomfortable around police feel obligated to take them and fear saying no that they are uncomfortable with doing so.
- ii. Paratransit Advisory Board has also signed on to the resolution.
- iii. The resolution was sent to the Mayor's office the morning of July 21, 2020 for signature.
- iv. The Transit Advisory Board also sent another resolution asking for transit to be free during the time of COVID-19.
- v. Requested the Human Rights Board partner with them in requesting that public transportation be free and not be used to transport officers to protests.
- vi. Chair Necochea moved to write a letter of support of the resolution done by the Transit Advisory Board. Member Yazze-Gallegos seconded the motion. However, since this agenda item was not listed as an action item the board is unable to vote on it at this time. Chair Necochea moved to add a letter of support for the resolution drafted by the Transit Board to be on the next agenda. Member Yazze-Gallegos seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
- vii. Mrs. Melendez can assist with a small grant for an educational campaign to raise awareness about civil rights while riding public transportation. This would include her office facilitating placement of educational material on buses through internal communication.

IX. Hate Incident involving Africana Studies at UNM.

- a. Invited representatives from UNM were not present for the Board meeting. However, the Board did receive an email from Mr. Terry Babbitt. In the email he expressed that the UNM administration was in disagreement with the letter sent by the Board.

X. Director Reports

- a. Office of Civil Rights
 - i. Mrs. Jacobus supplied a report prior to the Board meeting. She highlighted a new complaint filed, provided an update to the ADA 30th Anniversary trainings reviewed stats, as well as reminded the Board about the prima facie sheets and discussed what prima facie discrimination is and how to evaluate.
- b. Office of Equity & Inclusion
 - i. Mrs. Melendez shared the current need for more trainings on anti-blackness, anti-native and anti-racism, as well as the need for additional trainers.
 - ii. The city has just announced investing in a black leadership fund.
 - iii. Scott Carreathers was appointed the City African American Community and Business Liaison by Mayor Keller.
 - iv. City Council asked OEI to draft a piece of legislation which Mrs. Melendez shared a link to review in chat. It is a piece that strengthens and reaffirms our city's commitment to racial equity and will be heard at the August 3, 2020 council meeting.

- v. Mariela Ruiz-Angel is on special assignment as the planner and program coordinator for the Albuquerque Community Safety Division. OEI has put into place a contract for two people to take her place while she is on special assignment.
- vi. OEI is still mapping data for COVID.
- vii. Mrs. Melendez has t-shirts for the Board that were made for the Juneteenth event.

XI. Investigation review & determination in matter number 19-243.

- a. Chair Necochea moved to go into closed session to discuss matter 19-243. Member Assed seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- b. Upon returning from closed session to discuss matter 19-243, Chair Necochea stated for the record that only matter 19-243 was reviewed and discussed.
- c. Member Yazze-Gallegos moved to find no probable cause in matter number 19-243. Member Jefferson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

XII. Research & Investigation Subcommittee Report

- a. Member Jefferson shared a report with the Board via email prior to the meeting and inquired if the members reviewed the report. The subcommittee report included:
 - i. Human Rights Investigative Procedures
 - 1. Recommend that Board Officially Adopt Procedures
 - ii. Response to Racism UNM
 - 1. Seeking Avenues of Cooperation with UNM
 - 2. Studying Initiatives to de-construct Racism in ABQ
 - iii. Investigation of Police Actions during George Floyd & Onate Protests
 - 1. Committee Reviewing APD Policies and Procedures
 - 2. Human Rights Violations
 - 3. Initiators of Human Rights Violations
 - 4. Use of Chemical Weapons
 - iv. Public Display of Confederate/Onate Monuments
 - 1. Drafted Recommendation for City Council/Mayor's Office
 - 2. Recommend Board Adopt and Submit Recommendation

XIII. Investigation regarding APD's response to Black Lives Matter/George Floyd Protests

- a. Chair Necochea will schedule another sub-committee meeting to detail the next steps for their investigation and bring it back to the board for a discussion and a vote.

XIV. New Business

- a. Confederate Monuments and Statues
 - i. The Board plans to request that City Council pass an ordinance that States that Confederate or any similar monument that is raised in violation of human rights could not be displayed in the city of Albuquerque. Member Jefferson shared a draft of the proposed ordinance.
 - ii. Member Jefferson moved for a special meeting in August to discuss and vote on the drafted ordinance as well as on the APD investigations. Member Yazze-Gallegos seconded the motion and then amended it to include the transit piece as well. Member Jefferson seconded the amended motion. Chair Necochea clarified the discussion and moved to have a special meeting in August to discuss the ordinance that was brought forth by Member Jefferson to discuss confederate

monuments and statues and to discuss the resolution brought forth by the Transit Advisory Board. Member Yazze-Gallegos seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

iii. A doodle will be sent to the board with dates for the special meeting.

- b. Member Yazze-Gallegos shared she has enlisted in the Army Reserves and will be leaving for boot camp on August 3, 2020. She will return right before Christmas and this will be her last meeting for this year.

XV. Adjournment

- a. Chair Necochea adjourned the meeting at 7:09 pm.

Adrien Lawyer, Vice-Chair

Date